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Statement by the President of the General Assembly  
at the 976th plenary meeting on 4 April 1961

As delegations may be aware, a meeting of the existing seventeen members of the Economic and Social Council took place this morning. It was found impossible to make any progress with the work of the Council in the face of doubts expressed by several of the members of the Council as to whether the Council was entitled legally to meet without the full membership prescribed by Article 61 of the Charter. In accordance with a wish expressed by the members of the Council present, my attention has been officially drawn to this situation by the Presiding Officer.

As must be obvious to delegations, this emphasizes sharply the need for finding a solution at the earliest possible moment of the impasse which at present exists in connexion with the filling of the remaining vacancy on the Economic and Social Council. I would like, therefore, to urge delegations, and particularly the delegations most closely concerned, to make an earnest effort to find a solution of the existing deadlock, so as to enable the Economic and Social Council to proceed with its work.

I would like to be able to announce before the end of the present week the date of the next ballot for the vacancy on the Economic and Social Council and I should like to be able to do so in the confidence that the ballot when held will yield a positive result.

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